

LOUISIANA TO GET \$29.5 MILLION TO REDUCE CLASS SIZE

In his weekly radio address, President Clinton will urge Congress to work in a bipartisan spirit to continue his plan to reduce class size in early grades to 18 students per teacher. He will also announce that the U.S. Department of Education is releasing new guidelines to help states and local school districts use the funds they will receive this summer to begin hiring well-qualified teachers to reduce class size in early grades. As the U.S. Senate considers the Education Flexibility Act, it is more important than ever that the Murray-Kennedy amendment to continue the President's class size reduction plan is passed as well.

Studies show that smaller class sizes help teachers provide more personal attention to students and spend less time on discipline; as a result students learn more and get a stronger foundation in the basic skills. In 1998, President Clinton proposed to help local schools hire 100,000 well-prepared teachers in order to reduce class size in grades 1-3 to a national average of 18, and make sure that every child gets a solid foundation in the basics. Last year, the President signed into law the first installment of his seven-year, \$12.4 billion proposal to hire 100,000 new teachers nationwide. For the first year, \$1.2 billion was provided to help local communities hire 30,000 teachers. The funds will be available to school districts in July. Local school boards will be incorporating these funds into the budgets they are developing right now for the next school year. To give communities the certainty they need to effectively plan and phase in a seven-year reduction in class size, Congress must act now.

In July, Louisiana will receive \$29.5 million as its first installment of funds to hire teachers to reduce class size in early grades. For Louisiana's largest school districts, that means:

LOUISIANA	
ORLEANS PARISH SCHOOL BO	\$4,598,137
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH	2,105,567
JEFFERSON PARISH SCHOOL	2,105,037
CADDO PARISH SCHOOL BOAR	1,786,655
CALCASIEU PARISH SCHOOL	988,383
LAFAYETTE PARISH SCHOOL	933,194
RAPIDES PARISH SCHOOL BO	892,619
SAINT LANDRY PARISH SCHO	832,297
TANGIPAHOA PARISH SCHOOL	819,765
SAINT TAMMANY PARISH SCH	763,192
TERREBONNE PARISH SCHOOL	752,735
CITY OF MONROE PARISH SC	601,022
IBERIA PARISH SCHOOL BOA	560,614
LAFOURCHE PARISH SCHOOL	552,915
SAINT MARY PARISH SCHOOL	482,149
OUACHITA PARISH SCHOOL B	476,729
ACADIA PARISH SCHOOL BOA	466,806
BOSSIER PARISH SCHOOL BO	460,031
LIVINGSTON PARISH SCHOOL	426,206
ASCENSION PARISH SCHOOL	384,282

The guidelines and total estimated school district allocations are available on the Internet at <http://www.ed.gov/inits/ClassSize/index.html>.